

SESSIONS, Senator CLINTON, Senator CHAFEE, and others. We think this bill is effective, and we would hope the Senate can move forward and embrace this bill and pass it so the President can sign it yet this year.

What S. 2025 does, in more detail, is it is aggressive in encouraging the increased production of biofuels. It provides loan guarantees to farmer-owned ethanol producers, to help them make investments in renewable energy systems and infrastructure. It also increases the ethanol infrastructure tax credit that we passed last summer in the Energy Policy Act so that credit is set at 50 percent. This will lower the startup costs for farmers and communities and businesspeople who want to build a biorefinery or a processing plant.

These producers will benefit from the bill's investments in biofuels research. By doubling the funding for biofuels research, S. 2025 will improve yields and efficiencies and expand the range of feedstocks that can be used for biofuels production.

Secondly, S. 2025 helps reduce our foreign oil dependency by giving consumers access to alternative fuels at filling stations. Currently, in the United States, we have 5 million flexible fuel vehicles. These vehicles can run on either gasoline or E-85, an 85-percent ethanol-gasoline mix. We today are adding about 1.5 million of these flex-fuel vehicles to our national fleet every year. The trouble is, as you well know, there are only 485 filling stations in the country that carry E-85. There are only 485 filling stations today in the country that carry E-85. We have the technology on the road that allows cars to run on biofuels, but because consumers cannot pump E-85 fuel at their local filling station, we are not taking full advantage of the oil-saving rewards of the flex-fuel technology, which is now being deployed into our national fleet.

S. 2025 would solve this problem. It would solve this problem by helping to build the pumps and filling station infrastructure needed to deliver biofuels to consumers. The bill provides loan guarantees and tax incentives to farmers and business owners for the construction of pump stations to dispense fuels. It also uses CAFE penalties that have already been collected by the Government from foreign manufacturers to expand funding for grants to finance alternative fueling infrastructure.

One of the DOE grantees from this year alone, the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition, will be able to build 300 stations with its \$2 million grant. With at least 10 times the amount of that funding available, we should be able to equip at least 3,000 filling stations across America with the infrastructure that delivers biofuels to consumers who are in search for these alternative fuels.

The economic benefits of giving these fuel choices to consumers are clear. If

consumers can rely on filling their tank with E-85 fuel wherever they go, demand for the fuel and demand for cars that run on E-85 will increase dramatically, cutting demand for petroleum-based fuel. Not only will this help us deal with gas prices, but it will also stabilize them. We can count on our farmers to harvest their crops, but we cannot count—we cannot count—on Iran or the Middle East to sell us their oil.

Finally, S. 2025 will help us retool our national vehicle fleet. S. 2025 sets goals for improving the efficiency of our vehicle fleet and for getting more advanced vehicles on the road. It sets these goals and then helps manufacturers retool their vehicle fleets to meet them.

The bill sets targets for manufacturers to produce alternative fuel vehicles, plug-in hybrids, fuel cell vehicles, flexible-fuel vehicles, and other technologies which can run on regular gasoline or biofuel alternatives. By 2012, 1 in 10 vehicles produced will be advanced vehicles. By 2016, 1 in 2 vehicles produced will be advanced vehicles that can run on these alternative fuels or these advanced technologies.

We will help manufacturers make these changes to their fleets. The bill establishes a tax credit for the costs the manufacturers incur when they are retooling or expanding their facilities to produce advanced vehicles. The bill also authorizes support for research that will provide lightweight materials to the auto industry and for technology for electric drive trains, batteries, and plug-in hybrids.

The bill closes the SUV tax loophole, limits idling by buses, and requires that fuel economy standards be set for heavy duty vehicles so we can stop burning fuel we do not need to burn. For each 1 mile per gallon efficiency we find in this country, we save 1 million barrels of oil per day, or \$20 billion a year.

These are sensible, easy-to-implement solutions. Many of them, many of these ideas, have now been included in two bills that Senator BINGAMAN, Senator CHAFEE, Senator LIEBERMAN, Senator COLEMAN, Senator CANTWELL, and I and others have introduced. These are the Enhanced Energy Security Act of 2006, which will push the Federal Government to save 2.5 million barrels of oil per day by 2016, and at least 10 million barrels per day by 2031, and the new energy tax bill, which provides multiple incentives to manufacturers, businesses, and consumers alike to utilize energy-efficient programs and alternatives themselves.

The provisions of S. 2025 and the energy tax bill will give consumers more choices at the pump and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

Each of us should be asking: What if we do nothing? What if we do nothing? What if we continue our malignant neglect of the long-term energy policy of the United States of America? If we do continue this malignant neglect, we

will become increasingly vulnerable to the instabilities and whims of countries across the globe. The American consumer will continue to suffer, and the American economy will have lost an opportunity that has come its way.

We have devoted a lot of time to many issues over the last 6 months of this year in this Congress. We have not devoted enough time on this floor to the issue of energy and of energy independence. We need to do so because to do otherwise is to neglect the national security of the United States.

When you have a system that starts to break down, you have to address the cause as well as the symptoms of the problem. If your roof keeps springing leaks, you don't just put more and more buckets out. What you do is you eventually build yourself a new roof. We need to build a new energy policy in America, one that is built on the promise of renewable energy, technology, and conservation.

I believe Americans are eager for us as a Senate to do this. In States across the country, people are enacting renewable portfolio standards and demanding access to alternative energies. They imagine a renewable energy future that harnesses the business and work ethic of rural America and which breathes new life into sagging rural economies. They look at fields of corn, soy, and sunflowers and see the raw materials for biodiesel and for ethanol.

The renewable energy revolution is already underway in America thanks to farmers and ranchers and businesspeople who have been leading it, who have been doing their part. We now, as a Congress, need to do our part to push the renewable energy revolution forward.

I urge our Senate, in a bipartisan fashion, following the template of last year's national Energy Policy Act, to move forward to secure America's renewable energy future by making "25 by 25" our national goal.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THUNE). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ATTACK ON PAN AM FLIGHT 103 AND LIBYA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to speak about an issue of great importance to the State of New Jersey, to the United States of America, and to all of those who stand against acts of terrorism and violence: the attack on Pan Am flight 103.

The attack on Pan Am flight 103 shocked the world and claimed the lives of 189 Americans, including 38 citizens from my home State of New Jersey.

After these terrible attacks, and significant pressure from the international community, the Libyan Government finally agreed to pay \$10 million to the families of those who were murdered.

The Libyan Government still owes \$2 million to these families, which it promised to pay as soon as it was removed from the state sponsor of terror list, an action the State Department announced on May 15. The 45-day waiting period ended today, and the Libyans will be off the list. But we cannot allow them to be off the hook.

Libya, according to a Washington Post article, declared yesterday that it no longer has a legal obligation to make the final payment of \$2 million to the families of those killed. Libya is trying to argue that it doesn't have to pay this money because they were "supposed" to be taken off the terror list earlier. But what Libya forgets is that it had to earn the right to get off the terror list and that Libya's own actions are what delayed the process. In fact, the reason the process was delayed is because we discovered that the Libyans had been plotting to kill a member of the Saudi royal family, among other incidents.

Why should American families be deprived of their payment because of Libya's mistakes? Libya's argument is not only factually incorrect, it is immoral. At a time when we are fighting terrorism around the world, at a time when our men and women in uniform are putting their lives on the line to protect us from terrorists, at a time when we should send a message to the world that terrorism and the murder of U.S. citizens cannot be tolerated, we cannot allow the Libyans to get away with at least paying these grieving families that which they are owed. This money is not going to bring back their loved ones. It is not going to heal the pain. But it is an obligation that should be met.

Let me be clear: This money in no way absolves Libya of its actions in this incident. This money in no way will replace those who were murdered. This money in no way makes up for the loss, pain, and suffering of the families. But a promise made should be a promise kept, and Libya must keep its promise, period.

I hope the Libyans hear this message loudly and clearly. I also hope the administration hears the message loudly and clearly. Our State Department should be advocating for American families, not for facilitating the Libyans in breaking their commitment. We should not allow any implementation of diplomatic engagement until the Libyans honor their commitment.

I promise that, along with a number of other Members of Congress who represent families from different parts of the Nation who lost a loved one on Pan Am Flight 103, we will not rest until this payment is made, until the Libyans fulfill their promise. A promise made must be a promise kept. It is out-

rageous for the Libyans to act any other way. It would be equally as outrageous for our Government to act in any other way other than to make sure that we help these families in having this commitment honored.

I thank the senior Senator from New Jersey, Mr. LAUTENBERG, who has been a leader on the Pan Am Flight 103 attacks from the beginning, continuing to fight for the citizens of New Jersey and all of the other families who suffered in these terrible attacks. I am proud to join him, now that I am in the Senate, in this effort. I am committed to making sure that these families ultimately receive the commitment and the fulfillment of that commitment that the Libyan Government made. Our Government should ensure that we do no less.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:20 p.m. today, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the nomination of Henry Paulson to be Secretary of the Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING THE 230TH "CAROLINA DAY"

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, June 28 is a great day in the history of my State of South Carolina and in the formation of our great Nation. You see, it is on this date that we celebrate Carolina Day.

Two hundred and thirty years ago today, a small but determined group of fewer than 1,200 South Carolina patriots held off a British force that was more than twice their size.

The battle—which took place on Sullivan's Island, just outside the entrance to Charleston Harbor—became the first major American victory of the Revolutionary War.

Colonel William Moultrie, who commanded the colonist troops, had few resources at his disposal. So, he built a fort out of palmetto logs—a plentiful local resource.

Facing such make-shift opposition, the British commanders thought they would easily sweep into Charleston.

But these amazing palmetto logs actually absorbed the impact of the British cannonballs. This strengthened the American defense and gave the brave colonists a critical advantage.

The British were soundly defeated in a long, nine-hour battle. More than 200

of the British were killed or wounded, compared to only 35 of Colonel Moultrie's command.

Many historians consider this battle to be one of the greatest defeats in the entire history of the British navy.

Many South Carolina heroes were made on that day.

One such, hero, Sergeant William Jasper, is recognized for saving the regiment's flag after it was shot down by British fire. Seeing that it had been hit, Jasper exclaimed, "Colonel, don't let us fight without our flag!"

Sergeant Jasper then jumped into the face of enemy fire, walked the entire length of the fort—in full view of the British and cut the flag from its broken pole. He then added a new staff and replanted the flag back on the fort wall. Turning to the enemy, he gave three cheers and returned to his gun.

That flag—a blue banner with a white crescent—represented the dream of real freedom to these patriots. And today, that historic banner still serves as a source of pride and inspiration, as part of South Carolina's official State seal.

The blue background and white crescent also serve as the basis of our beautiful State flag, which incorporates a tall, proud palmetto tree . . . in recognition of the heroes of Fort Moultrie.

The resounding American defense of the City of Charleston at Fort Moultrie gave our fledgling Nation hope in the possibility of ultimate victory. And less than one week later—on July 4, 1776—the Continental Congress forever changed the course of history, signing our Declaration of Independence.

This story has profound relevance to what we face today as we fight the global war on terror. I can imagine those great patriots felt the same kind of joy that is plainly visible in the eyes of Iraqi citizens . . . people who are only now beginning to share in the sweet taste of freedoms that we so often take for granted.

Mr. President, as we celebrate Independence Day with friends and family, may we always remember the price that was paid for our freedom.

And may we resolve that the sacrifice of our brave soldiers across the years—from Fort Moultrie, SC, to Kirkuk, Iraq—will never have been in vain.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, here we sit in the Senate, quorum call after quorum call. Not much is happening. We just had our meeting of Democratic